

Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 20, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claims 18-20 have been canceled. Claims 21-25 have been newly added.

A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claims along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee are submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by August et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,383) ("August") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that August does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between August and the present invention is that August does not describe or suggest a method for displaying search results that includes inputting into a computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that August does not describe or suggest displaying search results from the performed search wherein each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community, and displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

August describes a system and method for information searching. The method includes determining at least one of interests and preferences for a user conducting an information search, conducting the information search, evaluating the results of the search based on at least one of the interests and preferences, learning at least one of new interests and new preferences for the user based on the evaluation, and manipulating the results based on the evaluation. The manipulating of results includes determining if the search returned in excess of a predetermined large number of results, and clustering the results into feature groups based on results of the determining, and summarizing the results into a display entity with dynamic attributes based on the manipulating.

Claim 1 recites a method for displaying search results using a computer coupled to a database that includes “inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user...storing the user data in the database...assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community...prompting the user to enter search terms into the computer for performing a search for information...displaying on the computer search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community...and displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.”

August neither describes nor suggests the method recited in Claim 1. More specifically, August neither describes nor suggests a method for displaying search results using a computer coupled to a database that includes inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community.

Moreover, August neither describes nor suggests displaying on the computer search results from the performed search wherein each search result has been previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community, and displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

Rather, August describes a system and method for information searching that includes determining at least one of interests and preferences for a user conducting an information search, conducting the information search, evaluating the results of the search based on at least one of the interests and preferences, learning at least one of new interests and new preferences for the user based on the evaluation, and manipulating the results based on the evaluation.

Notably, August does not describe or suggest inputting user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over August.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over August.

Claim 8 recites a computer comprising a user interface, and a processor, said computer coupled to a database, said processor programmed to “receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user...store the user data in the database...assign the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community...prompt the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information...display on said user interface search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community...and display on said user interface a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.”

August neither describes nor suggests the computer recited in Claim 8. More specifically, August neither describes nor suggests a computer including a user interface, and a processor, wherein the processor is programmed to receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assign the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community.

Moreover, August neither describes nor suggests a processor programmed to display on the user interface search results from the performed search wherein each search result has been previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community, and display on the user interface a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

Rather, August describes a system and method for information searching that includes determining at least one of interests and preferences for a user conducting an information search,

conducting the information search, evaluating the results of the search based on at least one of the interests and preferences, learning at least one of new interests and new preferences for the user based on the evaluation, and manipulating the results based on the evaluation.

Notably, August does not describe or suggest inputting user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 is patentable over August.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 9-17 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 9-17 likewise are patentable over August.

Claims 18-20 have been canceled.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to Claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 21 is an independent claim. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 21 is submitted in a condition for allowance and patentable. For example, Claim 21 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for displaying search results on a user interface coupled to a computer, the program comprising a code segment that “receives user data including at least one of an

organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user and then...assigns the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community...displays on the user interface search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community...and displays on the user interface a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.”

As noted above, August does not describe or suggest inputting user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 21 is patentable over August.

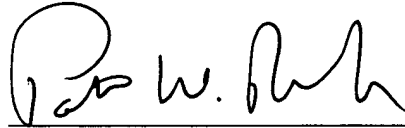
Newly added Claims 22-23 depend from independent Claim 21, which is submitted in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-23 are also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claim 24 depends from independent Claim 1, which is submitted in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 24 is also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claim 25 depends from independent Claim 8, which is submitted in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. W. Rasche", written over a horizontal line.

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